

Hawarden.....How it all Began

The Final Chapter for year 125

Chapter 49

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As I sit down to write this last article of 2012, and the last column of this series, I have many mixed emotions. My biggest accomplishment of the year was that I did not miss a deadline! Not since my school days and homework assignments have I had 52 weeks of deadlines. Friday at noon was embedded in my brain.

This is column 49. If you include the Introduction on week one that makes 50. Two weeks of the year my column was held over a week because of lack of space in the paper. I guess those two weeks were my vacation. It was a great year, and I have many acknowledgements to make.

First I want to thank the 125th Committee for pushing me into this project and having faith that I could do it. I was not so sure of myself and my nerves were letting me know that I had entered something new.

Thank you to my daughter, Cathy Noble – the eternal teacher who has kept encouraging me and helping me with each article. The articles are always read by her first for her expertise and suggestions. Her help has been invaluable.

Thank you to Hawarden and my friends and acquaintances who have read my stories and then elaborated on their own experiences on the same subject. I loved hearing all of your stories as well.

Maybe it is my age (Senior Citizen) or maybe I just love to tell stories, but the stories had to come from somewhere and I couldn't find a better setting to write about than my "forever" home, Hawarden. These stories belong to each of the readers. Senior Citizens like me who "remember when", and people who have made Hawarden their home even though it was not their birthplace. People who spent years here and moved away. All these people have impressed me with their thirst for knowledge about "How it all began".

2012 was a year of great memories; memories of our ancestors, our families and friends, our heritage. 2012 was also a year to make new memories; the birthday celebrations, Labor Day festivities and the All School Reunion. We now have the 125th History Book and Cookbook to read and reread and remember. It was a good year; a great send off to start thinking about 2037 and making new memories to celebrate in 25 years at our 150th birthday. NOW THAT SOUNDS OLD!

Last but not least I want to thank Bruce Odsen and *The Independent Examiner* for giving me space each week to publish my stories and allow me to actually see them in print. I really enjoyed the task; the weeks flew by and the pages of history always gave me something I was anxious to write about. The Sioux County Newspaper Archives on the internet were an invaluable source of information and verifies the fact that this newspaper has recorded history from the very first days of Calliope and Hawarden's existence. Without the printed word all the stories and verbal accounts would be just that; only stories. *The Independent Examiner* has been the one constant in the beginning and present history of our town. Back issues have been preserved and the history is there for all to read. I know the information highway of the 21st Century leads us to cyberspace, but I feel blessed that even though I accessed the Archives over the internet, the words had been written on paper and saved through the decades; tangible proof that events and decisions really took place in this town we all at one time have called home.

I cannot imagine a world without newspapers; how will we make our scrapbooks, how will history be preserved for each small town; will the words just be out there floating in space, or on a million micro chips stored in a vault? I cannot even imagine. I encourage everyone to support our local newspapers; send them information that needs to be

recorded, good and bad; activities and events that happen daily, but will be lost forever without the newspaper to record it.

Nooks & Kindle's are great; I love mine, but they are not tangible information. If I want information or a clipping of something from the past, I want to go to my stack of old Hawarden Independents or to the Archives on the Internet. I want to find the actual page with the news written on it so I can print it out. I can't imagine looking for it in some cyber cloud. When I look at a sky full of clouds, I certainly am not thinking of a storehouse of information located in them; my thoughts when I see clouds are either how beautiful the sky is or how threatening the skies look. Either way they were created by God for His purpose.

Last but not least, thank you to all the people who have stopped me on the street, e mailed me or written on Face Book to comment on my columns. You have given me encouragement, supplied me with valuable information and mostly just "made my day." That is what makes Hawarden a great place to live or a great place to call my hometown; the people are the BEST and it has been great fun . Thank you again for all your kind words and interesting stories. Have a wonderful 2013.